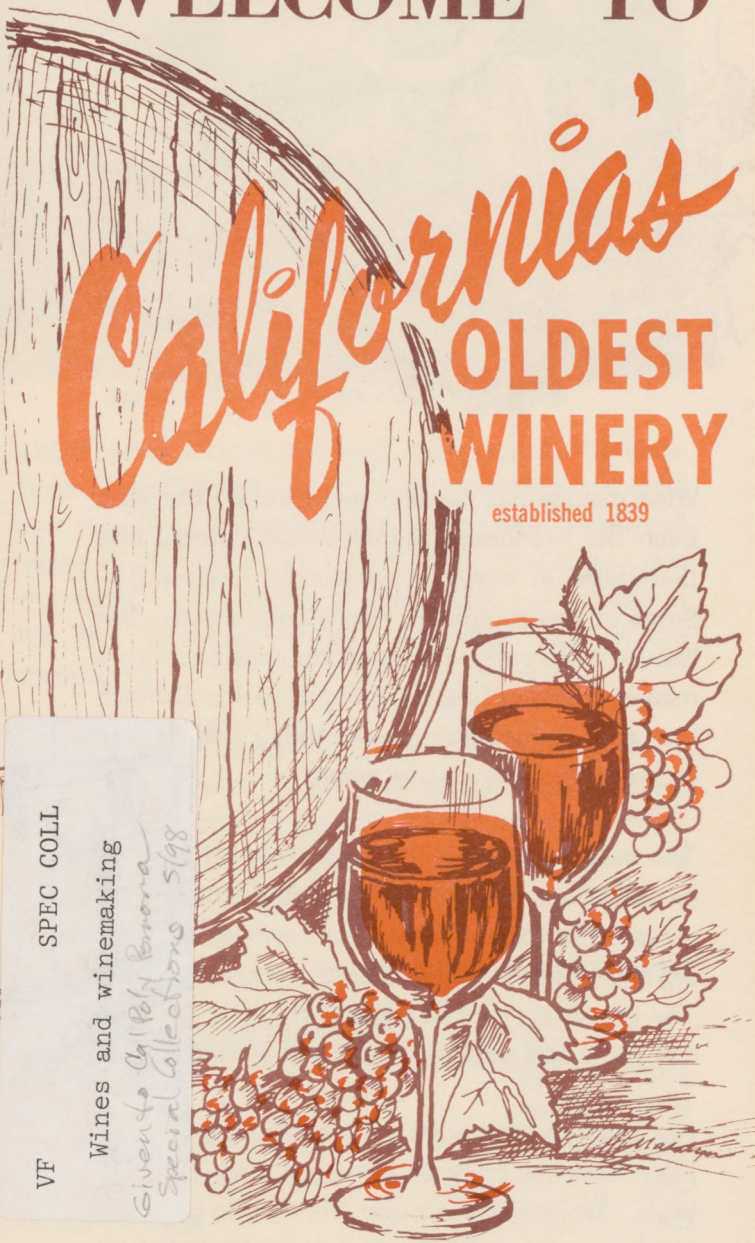
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Wine making, the art of turning grapes into wine, is as old as civilization itself. No one knows who the first winemakers were. We do know the Egyptians knew how to make wine early in their civilization. The Bible has many references to wine, and poets have sung the praises of wine throughout the ages.

Wine had a more practical reason in its beginning. Ancient peoples had little pure water to drink. Those who drank wine were found to be healthier and happier. This reason for wine drinking continues down to modern times in many countries. Roman soldiers introduced wine to France, England, and Spain. Since the time of Caesar in every country where wine grapes would grow, wine has been a necessary part of everyday life. It has also been used in religious services, in legal proceedings where agreements were marked with a shared glass of wine. It affected the course of trade routes and wars, and even took the place of money as legal tender.

Early Spanish missionaries brought vines of Old World grapes to America. From Mexico the skill came northward with the Franciscan Fathers into California. As the frontiers moved forward, missions planted vines and wine was made for the church and for the Padre's table. Descendants of the vines they planted are still growing all over California. The oldest winery in California is located in Cucamonga, which in Indian means "land of many waters." This is one of California's richest grape growing districts. The soil and climate of the area brought out the best in the vine. From these vines come the wines that have earned world-wide respect and recognition.



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Established by Tiburcio Tapia to whom the Cucamonga Rancho was granted March 3, 1839 by Governor Juan Batista Alvarado of Mexico. Dedicated September 9, 1950. Ontario Parlor No. 251 Native Daughters of the Golden West. Los Ranchos Parlor No. 283 Native Sons of the Golden West.